1859MNRAS..19..322P

qu'il y aura certains points de ce croissant qui disparaîtront plus-tard que d'autres et on aura ainsi une explication du phénomène des peignes et de "Baily—Beads" dans le cas où le contour de la lune projeté sur le soleil offrait une parfaite régularité sur les bords, même avec de forts grossisements. Sans doute les montagnes lunaires concourent au phénomène de "Baily—Beads," mais il y a des cas où il est difficile de les expliquer par ces montagnes. C'est encore peut-être à la dispersion due à des réfractions anormales de la couronne qu'il faut attribuer les cercles irrisés vus en dehors de cet anneau par quelques observateurs, et en particulier à Paranagua, par MM. D'Azambuju et de Brito. Quant à la couronne, sa fixité et surtout la direction de son plan de polarisation s'opposent à toute explication de ce phénomène par les réfractions anormales.

Note on the Triplicity of ν Scorpii. By Captain Jacob.

(*Letter to the Editor.*)

Referring to p. 292 of the last *Monthly Notice*, the triplicity of *ν Scorpii* is rather an old story, having been discovered by me in 1847, and I think you will find some mention of it in one of the volumes of *Monthly Notices* about that time.*

Captain Noble may find measures of B, C, in vol. xvii. of our *Memoirs*, and later ones in the Madras vol. for 1848–52.

[Since Captain Jacob's discovery in 1847 the star has been measured by Mr. Dawes, Admiral Smyth, and Lord Wrottesley. The Rev. T. W. Webb, in a communication dated July 20, states that with his telescope, which has a clear aperture of 5·5 inches, the small star is very conspicuous.—Ed.]

Micrometrical Measures of the Triple Star ν Scorpii. By Capt. Noble.

A B	Pos 337° 44′	Distance 40″·3
B *b*	Pos 39 40	Distance 2″ ?

Epoch 1859·48

Note on the Occultation of Saturn, May 8, 1859. By G. F. Pollock, Esq.

(*Extract of a Letter to the Assistant-Secretary.*)

"My own telescope being with the makers to effect an

---

* Vol. viii. p. 16.—Ed.

Downloaded from http://mnras.oxfordjournals.org/ at RMIT Central Library on July 14, 2015

© Royal Astronomical Society • Provided by the NASA Astrophysics Data System

1859MNRAS..19..322P

improvement in the stand, I had provided myself with a small telescope by Tulley with an aperture of 2¼ inches.

"As seen from my garden at Wimbledon, the dark portion of the moon was distinctly visible, both to the naked eye and in the telescope, and there were no clouds whatever in that part of the heavens, about a quarter of an hour before the occultation. Miss H——, a lady who was staying with me, and whose entire ignorance of celestial phenomena will presently be apparent to you, came out of the house and asked me what I was looking at, to which I replied that I was waiting to see the moon pass before *Saturn;* she then stayed to see it with the naked eye. Just before the occultation, and while I was looking through the telescope at the planet which was still some 3 or 4 diameters of the ring distant from the moon's edge, Miss H—— exclaimed, "You made a mistake in what you told me, for I see the star is passing in front of the moon instead of behind it." I immediately took my eye from the telescope, and saw apparently the dark limb of the moon with a bright star *entirely* on it, but touching the inner side of the circumference. On looking through the telescope again, I perceived that the planet had not yet actually arrived within a distance of the moon which I should estimate at more than twice the diameter of the ring. I did not take my eye from the telescope again, and observed nothing remarkable in the occultation, except that there appeared to be a slight retardation in the final disappearance of the planet, the last portion of the ring that was visible seeming to hang upon the moon's edge.

"What I have described is very different from the projection of a fixed star upon the moon's disk after it should have disappeared behind it. A phenomenon which even if not entirely dependent upon the diffraction of the telescope as suggested by Mr. Airy, could scarcely be seen by unassisted vision. The great irradiation of the planet as seen by the naked eye, would account for its appearing to overlap the moon's edge. The appearance, however, both to Miss H—— and to myself was, as I have already said, that of a bright star *entirely* on the moon's disk, though touching the edge on the inside, and this some time before actual contact on the exterior edge had taken place.

"The force of imagination may sometimes unconsciously assist us in seeing phenomena with which, though new to ourselves, we are familiar from description, what I may call the very innocent and unpremeditated piece of evidence afforded by Miss H——'s remark to me is quite free from any objection of this kind.

"*Wimbledon,* 7 *July,* 1859."

Downloaded from http://mnras.oxfordjournals.org/ at RMIT Central Library on July 14, 2015

© Royal Astronomical Society • Provided by the NASA Astrophysics Data System